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COUNTY BOROUGH

of

G R E A T Y A R M O U T H

URBAN AND PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

For the year 1939.

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TOWN HALL,

GREAT YARMOUTH.

1940.

To the Town Council of the County Borough of Great Yarmouth.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my first Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health. In doing so, may I refer briefly to the death of your late Medical Officer. Dr. Stevens entered the Council service as Assistant Medical Officer of Health in 1910. His record of devotion to duty will always be held in memory by the Council, and by his subordinates in the Health Department.

In accordance with Circular 2067, this Report has been cut down to the smallest possible limits and merely records the essential vital statistics and changes which may have become necessary as a result of the outbreak of war.

The outstanding event of the year was the outbreak of war on September 3rd. The order from the Government to man the Casualty Services came through in the afternoon of August 31st. Personnel were called out, dressings and medical equipment were distributed to the various posts and depots forthwith. With the enthusiastic help of the whole of the Health Department Staff, for which I tender them my best thanks, it was found possible to open all the Aid Posts, First Aid Party Depots and Ambulance Stations. When an inspection was made late the same night, all these were ready for action.

The serious break-down in health of Dr. Stevens early in August, resulted in him being absent from duty, but it is clear that the careful plans made by him, with the assistance of the Ministry, rendered the above possible.

Soon after the out-break of war it was recognized that additional medical help was required. With the approval of the Health and Education Committees, Dr. H.S. Bury was appointed Temporary School and Assistant Medical Officer of Health. He gave valuable help for the remainder of the year. With this addition to the Medical Staff, all the existing Health Services were fully maintained

The comparative vital statistics for the year 1939 are shown in the following table:-

	Gt. Yarmouth.	England & Wales.	London.	126 Great Towns.	148 Smaller Towns.
Death Rate	11.8.	12.1.	11.9.	12.0.	11.2.
x Infantile Death Rate	42.	50.	48.	53.	40.
Birth Rate	14.3.	15.59.	12.74.	15.39.	16.17.

x Per 1000 live births.

I am, Mr. Mayor,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D.WAINWRIGHT.

Medical Officer of Health.



## CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

SCARLET FEVER:- 122 cases were notified during 1939. The disease continued mild, and there were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA:- The epidemic, which was in progress during the latter part of 1938, continued during the first few months of 1939. 179 cases were notified, of which 80 occurred before the end of April. There were 6 deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH:- This became notifiable on 23/10/39, and 7 cases were notified. There were no deaths.

MEASLES:- This became notifiable on 23/10/39, and 1 case was notified. There were no deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS:- 55 cases were notified during the year, this being the lowest annual figure recorded locally. There were 29 deaths.

CERERO SPINAL FEVER:- One case, a soldier, was notified during December. This case, a severe one, was admitted to the Isolation Hospital, where treatment with Anti-meningococcus serum, together with M&B 693 was given. By the end of the year, the patient, though still in hospital, was well on the way to recovery.

CANCER:- The deaths from this showed an increase during the year, being 111 as compared with 97 during 1938, and a decennial average of 102.3.

RESPIHATORY DISEASES:- The deaths were slightly lower, being 50 as compared with 54 during 1938, and a decennial average of 63.6.

DIARRHOEAL DISEASES:- Deaths remain low, there being only 3 under 1 year of age as compared with 2 during 1938, and a decennial average of 2.5.

MATERNAL MORTALITY:- No cases of puerperal fever were notified, and only 4 of puerperal pyrexia. The mortality rate for Puerperal Sepsis was nil, and for other accidents of pregnancy and parturition was 1.3. (representing 1 death). The corresponding figures for England & Wales were 0.74, and 2.08 respectively.

MALNUTRITION AND UNEMPLOYMENT. Unemployment locally increased suddenly upon the outbreak of war, but it is too early to draw any conclusions as to the effects of the war on nutrition.

## HOSPITALS.

The three Hospitals admitting general cases, namely:- Great Yarmouth General, Gorleston Cottage, and Public Assistance Institution automatically came under the Emergency Medical Service on the outbreak of war. Great Yarmouth General and Gorleston Cottage Hospital, were then cleared to admit casualties, patients being sent home where possible, and to the Public Assistance Institution where further hospital treatment was deemed necessary. The war, fortunately, did not take its anticipated course, and casualties were extremely low. The Hospitals were therefore re-opened. The few E.M.S. cases admitted during 1939 were principally the result of war operations at sea, and were as follows:-

	<u>Admitted.</u>		<u>Discharged.</u>	
	Gt. Yarmouth.	Gorleston.	Gt. Yarmouth.	Gorleston.
Service Casualties.	-	-	-	-
Civilian Casualties.	14	-	14	-
Service Sick.	45	4	32	-

	<u>Remaining.</u>	
Service Sick.	Gt. Yarmouth 13.	Gorleston 1.



### ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

The Great Yarmouth Isolation Hospital afforded accommodation to approximately 90% of cases of infectious disease desiring hospital treatment. Gorleston Isolation Hospital is reserved for smallpox cases, and remained empty during the year.

### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

1. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic:- There were no outstanding changes or additional facilities during the year. 154 expectant mothers and 701 children paid a total of 508 and 5653 visits respectively, 131 expectant mothers and 397 children attended for the first time. The Clinic was open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.
2. Tuberculosis Clinic:- There was some slight interruption of the work at this Clinic during early September, on account of the outbreak of war, nevertheless 85 new cases were examined during the year, and the total attendances at the Clinic amounted to 808. Kelling and Ipswich Sanatoria were evacuated completely towards the end of August, the patients being sent home, and full facilities were not restored before the end of the year. During this period alternative Sanatorium accommodation was sought, and no one who was willing to avail themselves of the facilities provided, went without proper treatment.
3. Orthopaedic Clinic:- Until the outbreak of war, Mr. Brittain continued to hold at intervals Clinics at Melton Lodge. Any necessary operation was performed at the General Hospital, the patient being transferred to Melton Lodge for convalescent treatment. Out-patient treatment was also carried out by the orthopaedic nurse. During September 1939, patients at Melton Lodge were evacuated to Cawston Manor, Cawston. Although out-patient treatment was interrupted, the valuable work was carried on through the agency of the Nurse visiting the houses of the patients. Arrangements for continuing Mr. Brittain's Clinic are proceeding, and it is hoped to re-open the Clinic in the near future.
4. Venereal Disease Clinic:- Up to the end of 1939 no marked increase in the incidence of Venereal Disease had been noted locally, judging by the attendance of Yarmouth patients at the Lowestoft Clinic.

### HEALTH VISITING.

This work was not seriously interrupted by the outbreak of war, the staff being up to strength during the year.

### MIDWIVES.

The agreement entered into between the Council and an ad hoc Joint Midwives' Committee to provide a whole time service of nine midwives, continues to work well, and until the end of 1939, no outstanding inconvenience had occurred due to war operations. The figures for the year were:-

Number of cases delivered by midwives	325.
Number of <b>births</b> attended by midwives acting as Maternity Nurses.	366.
Medical assistance sent for by midwives	78.



Sir,

I have much pleasure in submitting a résumé report of the work of my Department during 1939. A.R.P. preparations and the outbreak of hostilities considerably curtailed routine work, particularly as the Inspectorial Staff already under strength, was further depleted by the calling up of Mr. Maxwell (Rat Officer) and Mr. Goodridge, Assistant Port Sanitary Inspector.

Investigation of complaints, drain testing, and the execution of all necessary works proceeded as usual, as also did much Factory and Worksop Inspection.

Two licences were issued for Camping sites, in addition to the Council sites, and these were inspected regularly and were very well kept.

Some samples were examined under the Merchandise Marks Act, also several traders were cautioned, but no legal proceedings were necessary.

Offensive Trades received all requisite attention.

186 Samples were submitted under the Food and Drugs Acts. Careful watch was kept on the milk supply and 89 samples were submitted for examination for Tubercle Bacilli.

The Town's water supply was sampled Quarterly with satisfactory results.

In spite of great difficulty 100% Meat Inspection was maintained in the sixteen slaughterhouses in the Borough, and meat and offals condemned in considerable quantities. One prosecution resulted in a Butcher being fined £5. Many Inspections were also carried out at the by-weekly markets and food shops and stores.

Samples under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936 were taken at intervals and these proved satisfactory and up to standard.

Housing matters showed some promise at the beginning of the year, when above 140 Council houses were available for re-housing the occupants of houses condemned under Section 11 of the Housing Act, and others were promised. Many other houses were condemned under the same Section, but with the outbreak of hostilities in September these activities had to cease. I am, however, as circumstances permit, surveying this question carefully in order to be in a position to report fully on this matter at a happier date, when the Council will have to make a great effort to efface the very considerable slum clearance problem which still persists in our ancient Borough.

Much useful work was done under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, both in the Borough and Port, and the Inspection of shipping and Canal Boats was maintained.

It is regrettable that the many useful provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts which should have come into operation this year, particularly as regards Food Stores, Ice-cream &c., have had to be more or less shelved, but I have done my best in these matters, and await better times when the full scope of these provisions can be used to the benefit of both Trader and Public.

I am, Sir,  
Yours obediently,

G.H. SPINKS.



BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

Home Teacher's Report.  
For the year ending December 1939.

The necessary registration work has been done and the Register brought up to date. There have been 22 new cases and 19 deaths during the year. The number on the Register is 238, being the same as last year.

The age groups are as follows:-

		M	F.
Under 5 years	... Nil	-	-
Between 5 and 16 years..	3	-	3
" 16 " 21 "	.. 6	4	2
" 21 " 50 "	.. 37	18	19
" 50 " 70 "	.. 107	58	49
Over 70 years	.. <u>85</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>49</u>
	<u>238</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>122</u>
	====	====	====

The office work connected with the administration of the Blind Persons Act is done by the Home Teacher

During August Miss Rees resigned her appointment to be married. The work was then carried on by Miss Howe until Miss Hovey was appointed on November 8th as temporary part-time Home Teacher.

The new scheme was adopted in March whereby the allowance for necessitous Blind Persons resident in the Borough was increased to 25/- per week. Under this scheme dependants above 16 years of age are allowed 10/- per week, and children under 16, 5/- per week. The investigation of the financial circumstances of the applicant is part of the Home Teacher's work.

1803 visits to the homes of blind persons, and to the Public Institutions have been made during the year. Instruction in Moon Type has been given to three persons. There are five readers who belong to the National Library.

Application has been made for the State Pension on behalf of 15 persons.

39 applications were made during the year for the Corporation allowance. At the end of the year there were 150 recipients as compared with 130 last year.

There are 3 children at the East Anglian School. There are 4 persons being trained at the Norwich Institution. There are 5 persons employed in the new local Workshop in King Street. There is one home worker employed as a copyist by the National Library.

The Flag Day organized by the Committee resulted in £208/13/5d.

As in former years, money grants for special purposes have been given to blind persons out of the voluntary fund; gifts of eggs, fruit etc., have also been made to invalids.



### GENERAL WELFARE WORK.

During the early months of the year both the Yarmouth and Gorleston Clubs held fortnightly meetings, and the average attendance was 80 for Yarmouth, and 30 for Gorleston. Owing to the war, this enjoyable service was curtailed considerably from September until the end of the year.

The Thirteenth Annual Party was held on December 14th at Hill's Restaurant, when 240 guests were present. On this occasion, The Mayor (E.R. Herman Esq., J.P.) presented to Mrs. S. Boulton a wedding gift from the Blind in appreciation of her work during 15 years of service as Home Teacher. A second gift from members of the Committee was also given.

The Transport Committee has granted facilities to travel free on the Corporation buses to 172 blind persons.

The Committee has arranged with the British Wireless for the Blind Fund and the local Relay Committee to provide free relay service to blind persons. This concession is appreciated greatly, and it is hoped that eventually the majority of the blind will benefit.

The Committee is indebted to the Trustees of the Park Baptist Church in Yarmouth, and to those of the Wesleyan Chapel in Gorleston for the use of their Schoolrooms for meetings for the blind.

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MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS.

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Supervision Officer's Report.

For the year ending December, 1939.

Miss Redhead submits her first Annual Report of work under the above Acts.

HOME VISITING.

During the year 486 visits have been made to 98 homes.

8 new cases have been added to the Register, and 7 have been admitted into Institutions.

3 cases have removed from the district.  
3 boys have been transferred to other Institutions.

There is now a total of 78 on the Register, and 89 in Institutions.

OCCUPATION CENTRE.

The Centre has been open 5 days weekly from 9.30 to 12 noon, at St. Peter's Schoolroom, Deneside. The training has included, sewing, knitting, rug and stool-making, raffia and leather work, basket-making, and elementary wood-work. Physical training, sense training occupations, speech training, singing, percussion band, country dancing and games.

The number attending during the year was 14.

3 cases have been taught in their homes.

SOCIAL EVENTS.

On July 6th , 14 children were taken for an Outing to Hemsby Beach. Tea was provided there, and enjoyed by all in Mr. Papworth's Hut.

On December 21st a Christmas Dinner and Party was held at the Occupation Centre, 25 children being present.



AMOUNT OF SHIPPING INSPECTED IN THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1939.

TABLE A.

	<u>Number Inspected</u>		<u>Number Reported Defective</u>	<u>Number of vessels on which defects were remedied.</u>	<u>Number reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.</u>
	<u>By the M.O.H.</u>	<u>By the Inspector</u>			
Total Foreign	54	300	57	49	Nil.
Total Coastwise	35	808	171	162	1+
	+ 1 case of measles landed here.				

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>No. of cases during 1939.</u>		<u>No. of vessels concerned.</u>
	<u>Passengers.</u>	<u>Crew.</u>	
Paratyphoid Fever.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-
Chicken Pox.	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage, but disposed of prior to arrival.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>No. of cases during 1939.</u>		<u>No. of vessels concerned.</u>
	<u>Passengers.</u>	<u>Crew.</u>	
Erysipelas.	-	-	-

V. Measures against Rodents.

No rat-catcher has been appointed for the Port. Ships in the Port are regarded as houses in the town, and receive only a proportionate amount of attention. In this connection 18 ships were visited by the Rat Officer during the year. There were no ships from plague infected ports. No unduly infested ship was found.

REPORT  
KILPARIAN

VI. Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number Inspected 1939.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other unhealthy conditions.
British	1009	4	48	137
Other Nations	199	-	29	51

BILGE PUMPING ON FISHING VESSELS - Bills were posted drawing attention to the above offence, and many masters and engineers of vessels were cautioned personally by the Inspector.

CANAL BOAT ACTS.

During the year 41 boats were inspected, and these were generally found to be very clean and well kept, and in no case were there female or children permanently residing on board.

On four boats no certificates were produced. Three cabins needed to be re-painted, and one other had a broken skylight to the cabin. One boat was verminous.

The above were all satisfactorily dealt with on notifying the owner.

There has again been no case of sickness on board a canal boat during the year.

REGISTRATION MATTERS.

There were no fresh registrations during the year; most of the boats in this district now register under the Merchant Shipping Acts.

